90th ANNIVERSARY 1899-1989

our fourfooted friends

Animal Rescue League of Boston • Spring 1989

Animal Rescue League of Boston

Publisher of

Our Fourfooted Friends

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COVER:

It's showtime! "Sparky," best of show dog in the League's summer 1988 pet show, invites his pals to compete in the League's 90th Anniversary Pet Show in May on Boston Common (see p. 14).

Photo by Bob Howard

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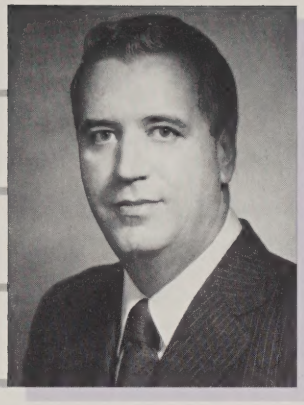


Arthur G. Slade, *President*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

THE MANY WAYS OF GIVING

The League is blessed with a large number of wonderful friends and members who continue to express their interest and support of the League's work through their generous memberships and other cash contributions. We are deeply grateful for this type of giving and it is extremely important to our successful operations.

As I talk with many of our supporters, I find that an increasing number of them are also more and more interested in alternate ways of giving which can benefit both the donor and the League. In light of this special, growing interest, I want to take just a few moments to touch on some of the major types of alternative giving plans. You will note that some have more or less immediate benefits to the donor and the League, and others have a deferred impact.

1. A gift of **Securities**—A contribution of marketable securities of appreciated value may be an ideal gift. If the securities have been held for the required period of time, the donor can usually receive an income tax deduction for the full value of the stock as a contribution.
2. A gift of **Real Estate**—It may be preferable for the contributor to make a gift of the future interest in real estate during the individual's lifetime, for example, by retaining a life interest in the donor's residence and incorporating a deed which would give the remainder of the interest to the League. A real estate contribution of this type provides an income tax deduction for the contributor in the year of the gift and eliminates the estate tax on the property.
3. A gift of **Life Insurance**—A life insurance policy may be donated as a charitable contribution. The ownership must be assigned to the League, allowing the contributor immediate income tax deductions for the policy's cash value and eliminating its proceeds from the final estate. The donor's annual premiums are also tax deductible.
4. A **Bequest**—Many times an individual is not financially able to make donations during their lifetime since their income level does not allow for any amount of disposable funds for cash contributions. However, many such people have been able to make a gift in the form of a bequest in their will. This is truly a wonderful way to insure that your interest and support are carried on after your lifetime in a way that gives it special meaning and it is in itself a memorial to your life of love and appreciation of animals.
5. A **Charitable Remainder Unitrust**—The major advantages of such a unitrust to the donor include:
    A. A charitable income tax deduction in the year in which the gift is given to the League.
    B. A substantial savings in taxes on gains when using appreciated securities held for the long term as the source of your gift.
    C. None of the trust property is included in your taxable estate so long as you are the sole beneficiary.
    D. The donor is relieved of the burden of investment management.
    E. The donor's annual income will often be increased as a result of "unlocking" low-yield, low-cost securities which are converted by the trustee into assets which return a better yield to the donor as the income beneficiary during his or her lifetime. The reinvestment of equity for greater return, coupled with the income and tax savings, often proves to be very rewarding to the donor.

I would be pleased to discuss any of these methods of giving with anyone who may be interested in seeking more information.

LIVING WITH WILD NEIGHBORS

By Terrie Bierig-Neyland

The onset of spring presents many challenges to a humane organization such as the Animal Rescue League of Boston. The domestic pet population literally explodes as new litters of kittens and puppies are born every minute. The need for new homes for these litters increases dramatically as the young are weaned from their mothers and mature enough to be separated. As a full-service humane organization, the League is also called upon to aid in situations involving wildlife. These calls, too, double and triple in number during the spring season. For better or worse, we share our neighborhoods, yards, and sometimes our homes with wild animals. They are here to stay and people need to learn how to live amicably with wild animals while, at the same time, maintaining a comfortable distance between their respective dwellings.

The list of wildlife the League is called upon to help is endless and the variety diverse. In 1988, alone, the League came to the aid of 1,621 wild animals, a number which represents animals as common as raccoons, opossums, skunks, squirrels, seagulls, bats, and as uncommon as a peregrine falcon, a pelican, fox, screech owls, and a peacock. As the weather warms, the arrival of spring urges wild animals to search out safe "nests" in which to bear young. At this time, the League begins receiving hundreds of calls (396 in 1988) from distraught homeowners who hear squeaking and purring sounds coming from their fireplaces. Invariably, a raccoon has climbed into the chimney of the home and given birth. In this situation, the caller has done the correct thing in requesting aid from a humane organization. Although raccoons are not vicious creatures, they are still wild and must be handled with caution. Do *not* start a fire! If the fire does not kill the adult raccoon, it will certainly scare her away and leave the kits to perish. Ideally, homeowners should take precautions to avoid ever having such a wild visitor by covering the chimney top with wire screening. The screening will allow smoke out and prevent wild animals from getting in.

Dark openings such as windows and chimney tops look like safe, dry, tree cavities to animals like raccoons, squirrels, opossums, etc. These animals are simply following directions from instinct when they search out shelter in your home; however, those antique instincts very often get the animal in trouble in our modern world. In October of 1988, the *Daily Evening Item* reported that a raccoon had climbed through the open bedroom window of a local woman's home. After scaring the unsuspecting owner of the home, the raccoon beat a hasty retreat the same way it got in. In September of the same year, the *Cape Cod Times* told about a curious group of red foxes that were observing tennis matches at a local court and then stealing off with the stray tennis balls. In June of the same year a Peabody woman, as reported by the *Daily Evening Item,* found herself more than a little surprised when a raccoon fell through her bedroom ceiling right onto her bed. "The city dog officer called the Animal Rescue League, but by the time officers arrived, the raccoon had leaped from an air conditioner and returned to the woods," reported David Liscio of the *Daily Evening Item.* At least two of these situations could have been avoided; the two involving the raccoons. To avoid wild animals inhabiting your home, you must first seal all routes of animal entry. All open windows should be screened, cover chimney tops with mesh or screening, and seal openings where smaller animals can get through. Some bats, for instance, can squeeze through openings only 3/8″ wide. If you do find a bat winging about your home or apartment, "put away that broom or tennis

Young raccoon kit is nursed by League agent Peter Faux.

City dwellers have their share of raccoon, opossum, and skunk populations living among them. These animal populations flourish in the city due to the "easy" food supply on every corner where trash bags, garbage cans, and loose refuse are in abundance. People have basically invited these animals to live in close quarters. In the suburbs, if you have a wild animal visitor, you too have probably invited it to your home by leaving easily accessible garbage bags out (and then blaming the neighborhood dog when they are ripped open and their contents strewn about). Do you have unscreened, cave-like openings on your home such as windows or chimney tops? Are there small openings in the sides of your home on or around the attic vents or chimney? If so, you are issuing an invitation to your wild neighbors to come inside for a visit.

Learning to live with the wildlife around you means taking responsibility for "wildlife-proofing" your home. These animals do not come around because they want to gain a better understanding of human nature. By all means, protect your home from wild animal intruders but try to understand that these animals are not trying to be a nuisance; they are just attempting to live in the space human beings have left for them . . . and there is not much of it.

racket and open a window or door to the outdoors," suggests the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. The bat will use its sonar to locate the opening and leave within a few minutes.

Bats and squirrels are capable of setting up a colony in an attic if they can enter. If a colony of either of these animals occurs in your home, do not use poisons or other chemical toxins to kill them. Unless you solve the primary problem, which are the holes that allowed the animals in, there will surely be more. You need to observe the outside of the attic area (approximately one hour before sunset to see bats) and pinpoint the exits used by the animals. From there, it is relatively easy to seal the holes while the animals are out foraging. When they return to find "their" home sealed off, they will simply move on to, hopefully, a more appropriate site. Open the holes on one or two following evenings to allow any stragglers to escape. The Massachusetts Audubon Society suggests placing a bright light and a loud radio in the attic to drive the animals out, since they have arrived to enjoy the solitude, quiet, and darkness in the attic. If the attractions of the attic are removed, the animals will leave. If you employ the use of the radio and light solution, you must still observe the animals leaving so as to pinpoint exit sites and seal them. The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife warns that eviction of a bat colony should not be attempted at times other than, "the early spring, during the month of May, or late summer, from the first of August to mid-October." During winter months, the bats hibernate and, in summer months, newborn bats will be left to die in the attic when the adult bats are sealed outside.

Dana Hall sophomores Sarah Hughes and Nyela Flanders groom "Fair Nashua" at the Pine Ridge barn before morning classes.

Volunteers at the League

HELPING HANDS AND HEARTS

"I love it here, and I can learn something," says Calvin Sylvester, a junior at Boston Academy.

"We have a cat, a bird, and fish at home, and we wanted to volunteer with animals," explain Daleth, 13, and Cosmos Clothier, 11, a brother and sister team who ride the trolley in from Auburndale each week to help.

"I like the animals, and the people," is the way Debbie Halstead sums it up.

These enthusiastic young people are among a very special group, members of the Animal Rescue League's volunteer program which includes people of all ages and backgrounds who share one important thing in common: a desire to give of their time and energies to help animals in distress.

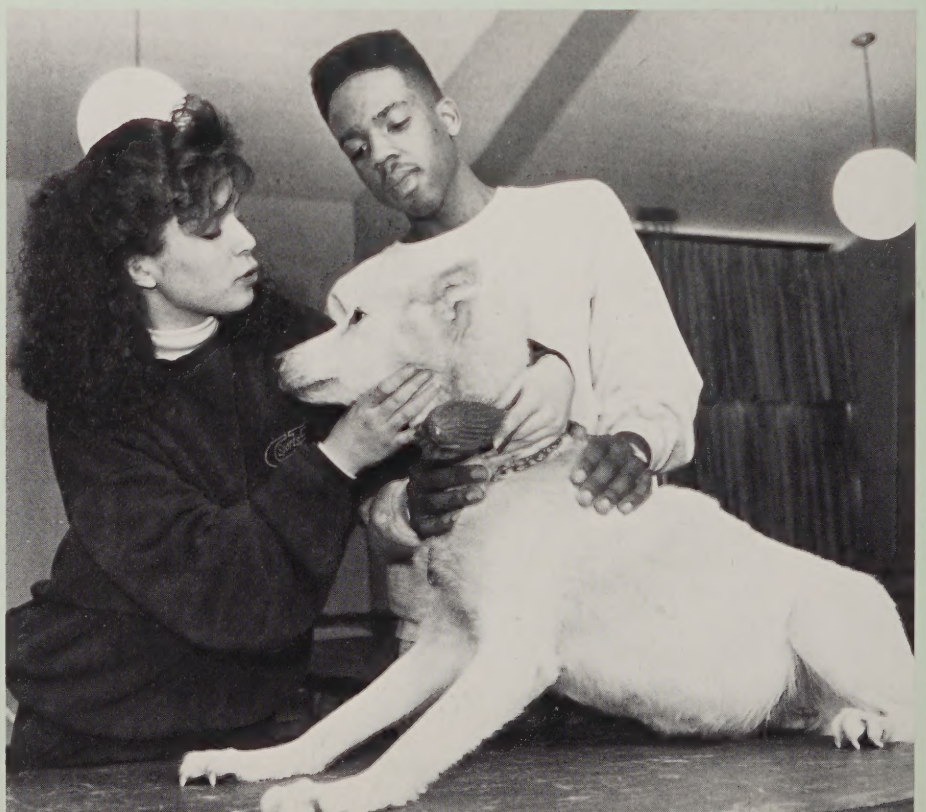
Volunteers play an integral and important role in the daily activities at all four League adoption shelters. They come on a regular basis—some weekly, some daily, and some who have been coming for years. They help out wherever needed, pitching in to walk, feed, bathe or groom animals, or help out with phones and office work, if necessary. "Most important, they are able to give that extra bit of attention and affection that frightened and abandoned animals so sorely need," according to Thomas White, director of operations at headquarters in Boston.

In Boston, there are usually an average of seven or eight volunteers helping out in any given week, including students like Calvin and Debbie, who are part of an ongoing volunter community service arrangement with Boston Academy. For Debbie, a senior who plans to study nursing, this is her second year at the League.

Students also play a major role at Pine Ridge Animal Center in Dedham where a new program with neighboring Noble and Greenough School brings senior Holly Kearns to the shelter on a daily basis, as part of an

Pets at the Brewster shelter are treated to daily visits by volunteers Jay Walter Mead (above) and Diane Wadsworth (below).

Debbie Halstead and Calvin Sylvester, students at Boston Academy, give extra attention to a dog rescued from an abusive home. "You could count every one of her ribs when she first came in," Calvin recalls.



The prospect of a bath at the able hands of Dedham volunteer Holly Kearns doesn't phase this dog a bit!

internship program. Holly, a photography enthusiast who is developing a slide show on the League in her spare time, helps clean and feed the animals every morning, and is also invaluable in the office, where she is available to cover the phones or deal with the public when the staff is busy with animal-related emergencies, according to shelter manager Robert Walsh. Six other students, from Dana Hall in Wellesley, take turns coming every morning before classes to help care for the horses sheltered at Pine Ridge.

The spirit of giving is by no means confined to the young. At the League's Cape Cod Branch in Brewster, school teacher Diane Wadsworth of Harwichport has been visiting the shelter nearly every day for a year, taking each dog for a long walk, and bringing them biscuits and toys. The animals there also look forward to their daily visits from retired engineer Jay Walter Mead of Eastham, "who gives all the animals much needed company," according to shelter manager Lynda Brogden. "He talks to the large ones and pets them; he picks up the smaller ones and cuddles them."

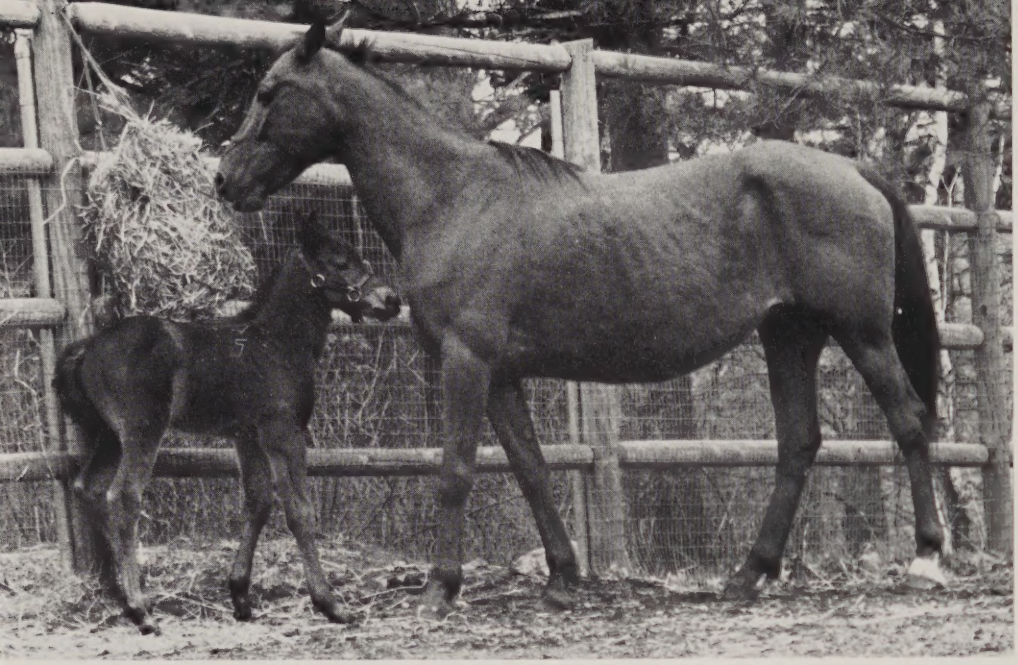
The animals at the Sheldon Branch in Salem also have a regular visitor, neighbor Melissa Keeler who comes every Tuesday and Thursday, helping to feed, clean or exercise the animals and just generously pitching in to do whatever is needed, according to shelter manager Mary Brasier.

For some, an opportunity to volunteer at the League represents more than simply a chance to give. For the past two years, the Salem shelter has taken part in a joint effort that gives participants in an alternative vocational workshop program in Lynn an opportunity to learn new skills while volunteering. The Cape Cod Branch regularly works with volunteers from Project Coach, an alternative sentencing program that gives juvenile and adult offenders an opportunity to provide community service.

To all of its dedicated volunteers, the League extends a warm and heartfelt thank you for helping make the League a very special place, filled with very special people.

Daleth and Cosmos Clothier ride the "T" in every Wednesday to help feed, clean and exercise pets in the adoption area.

Pets at the Sheldon Branch in Salem receive an extra touch of TLC from volunteers (l to r): Melissa Keeler and Lucien Voisine.



Emaciated and sick when she was taken in by the League, "Noel" regained her strength and gave birth to a foal named "Justin," shown here with his mother.

Wanted: "Stable," Loving Homes

A Brockton couple was found guilty of cruelty to animals this past January and ordered to pay $10,000 in restitution to the Animal Rescue League, bringing to a successful conclusion a case that began more than a year earlier and clearing the way for the League to find new homes for five horses and a dog held in protective custody during the duration of the case.

The case began on December 13, 1987, where League agents Alan Borgal and Carol McCarthy inspected a horse boarding stable in Whitman, acting in response to a complaint received the day before from a woman who had been boarding a horse there. At the stable, which was operated by Linda and Donald Fregeau of Brockton, they found 37 horses, several of which appeared malnourished, emaciated and sick. "Horse stalls were filthy with large accumulations of manure and urine," they stated in their inspection report. Several horses and a pony were being kept in an outdoor paddock with no food source or proper shelter, despite the extremely cold temperatures.

The agents gave the stable operators two notices of violations of cruelty to animal laws, together with a list of the problems that would have to be taken care of immediately. During the next few days, they made additional visits but found no attempts made to improve the animals' situation. Accordingly, on December 17 they returned with search warrants, seizing five horses from the stable, and also a dog found "in poor condition and very emaciated" at the Fregeau's home.

"Jamie," a friendly, female Doberman who is now free for adoption, relaxes with League agent Martha Parkhurst, who is also shown (at left) examining one of the sorely malnourished horses seized from the Fregeau stables.

The five horses all showed signs of malnutrition and emaciation, displaying "prominent withers, hip bones, ribs and backbones. Some horses had swollen lymph glands and nasal discharge, possible signs of a contagious equine disease known as 'strangles'," according to the inspectors' report.

Despite the best efforts of veterinary medicine, one of the horses later died, but, with care, the others thrived, grew fat and healthy, and—in one case—multiplied! A 12-year-old mare, pregnant when taken into custody, gave birth to a male foal on Easter morning. The staff at the League's Pine Ridge Center in Dedham, where the animals still reside, named the newcomer "Justin," short for "Just-in-time for Easter."

Meanwhile, the stable operators were charged with 19 counts of cruelty to animals. On January 26, 1988, after the Fregeaus admitted sufficient facts to warrant guilty findings on all charges, Judge Geraldine Lombardo of Brockton District Court found Donald Fregeau guilty and placed him on probation for two years, and continued the case against Linda Fregeau without a finding. The judge ordered the couple to pay $10,000 in restitution to the League to cover costs for the boarding and care of the animals.

Now legally free to offer the animals for adoption, the League is seeking good homes for Justin, now a lively, nearly grown colt; his patient and long-suffering mother, "Noel"; and two other horses. One horse was returned to its previous owner who had been boarding it at the stable, and the formerly emaciated dog—a very friendly and personable doberman—is now in good health and spirits at the League's Boston shelter, hopefully awaiting adoption.

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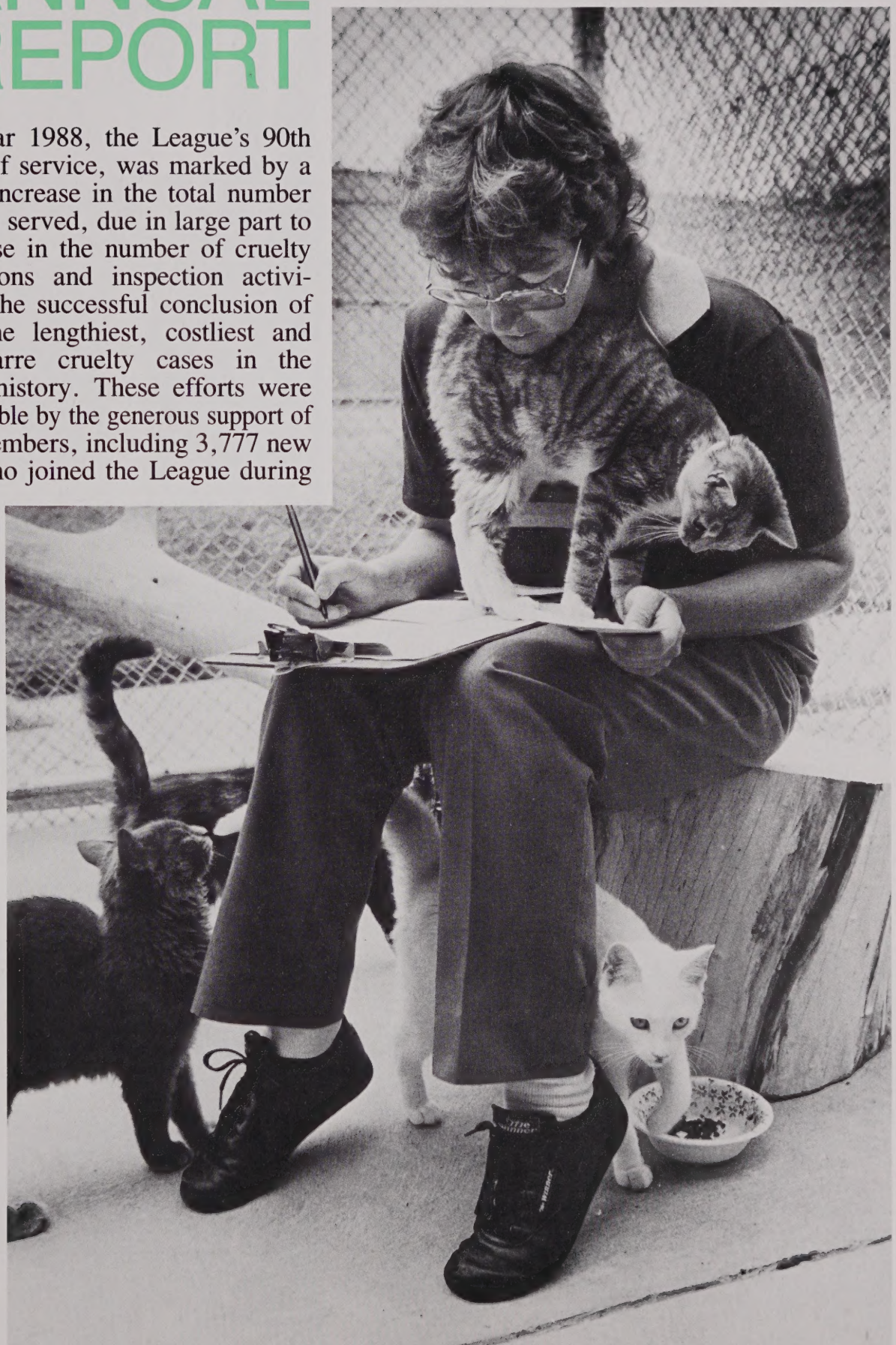
The year 1988, the League's 90th year of service, was marked by a dramatic increase in the total number of animals served, due in large part to a steep rise in the number of cruelty investigations and inspection activities, and the successful conclusion of one of the lengthiest, costliest and most bizarre cruelty cases in the League's history. These efforts were made possible by the generous support of 30,365 members, including 3,777 new friends who joined the League during 1988.

PAPERTRAINED PETS! Shelter manager Mary Brasier of the League's Sheldon Branch in Salem receives an assist with her paperwork from a few of the more than 7,000 pets placed for adoption in 1988.

Photo by Kirk Williamson, courtesy Salem News.

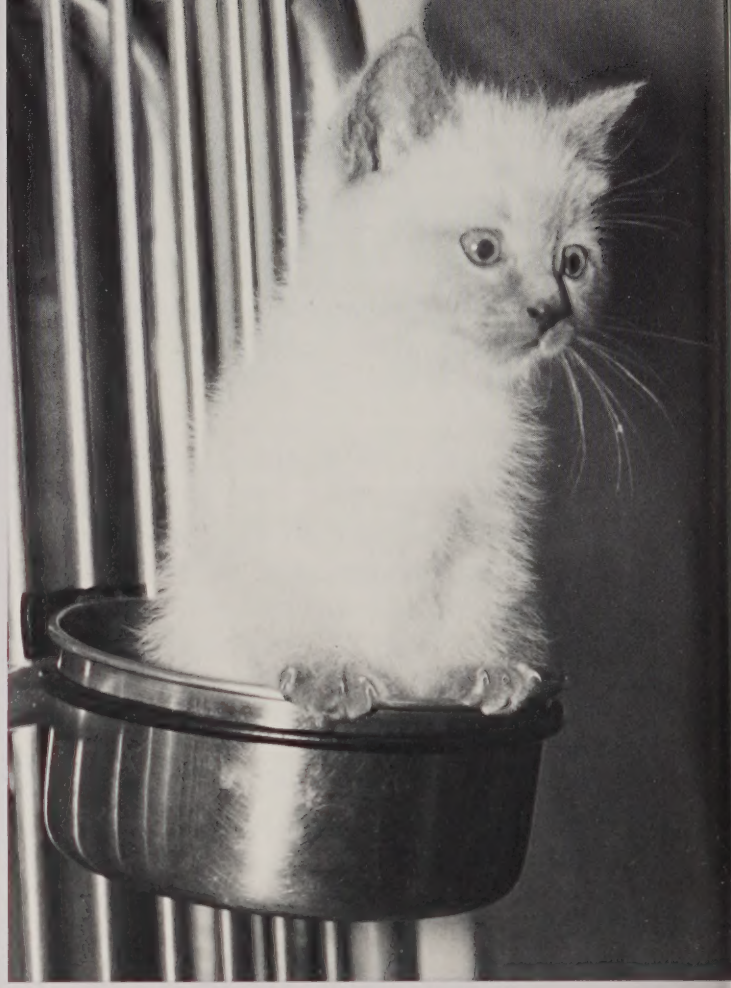


In January, 1988, the League was finally awarded custody of over 70 animals seized in an 18-month cruelty investigation and prosecution of their former owner, Brian Watson, who had kept the animals in appalling conditions at a remote farm in Essex, Mass., where he operated a stable, and rented out exotic animals for parades, fairs and commercial promotions. Much of the year was spent finding suitable new homes for the wide variety of domestic and exotic animals involved in this case, ranging from pigs, goats, and horses, to a jaguar, tigers, lioness and a camel that had been blinded in a beating. Mr. Watson, who fled the state after being found guilty but prior to sentencing, has since been located in Missouri where he was arrested on suspicion of unrelated charges and is under surveillance. Discussions are underway between Massachusetts and Missouri authorities regarding extradition.

In all, League agents were involved in 908 cruelty investigations during 1988, a 21% increase over the total law enforcement cases handled in 1987. Inspections of sites where animals are kept rose by 58%, with inspection visits to ensure compliance with humane standards made to 531 kennels, stables, guard dog establishments, fairs, zoos and research facilities, compared to 336 such visits in 1987. Over 189,000 animals were inspected at these sites, including small, miscellaneous animals and birds, bringing the grand total of animals served in 1988 to over 231,000.

The League's pet adoption programs continued at a steady pace, with a total of 7,265 animals being placed in new homes, including 2,584 dogs, 4,022 cats and 660 miscellaneous animals. A substantial increase was noted in the number of people adopting hamsters, guinea pigs and other small pets and, in recognition of this trend, the League began providing cages and starter adoption kits for those who adopt small pets, included as part of the adoption fee.

A total of 12,725 patient visits were made to the outpatient clinic for small animals, an increase of 20% over 1987, and a total of 1,705 lost pets were returned to their owners, including 972 dogs, 430 cats and 303 miscellaneous animals.



Scenes on this page illustrate the wide range of animals assisted by the League, and the diversity of programs conducted for their welfare, ranging from rescue, shelter and adoption to wildlife rehabilitation and humane education.

1988 ANNUAL REPORT

continued

In its ongoing efforts to foster appreciation of animals in our society, and prevent animal abuse and suffering, the League works to initiate and support animal-related legislation on the city, state and federal levels. In the state legislature, a bill that would have guaranteed pet ownership rights to elderly residents in state housing did not come to a vote in the 1988 session. The proposal has been resubmitted, and the League will be working actively to secure its passage in 1989. Time also ran out in the legislature before a vote on a proposal to ban glue-type trap devices, and this bill has also been resubmitted. Meanwhile, two other states have expressed an interest in banning this device, and have requested copies of the League's literature on the glue-trap device proposal.

A referendum on the Massachusetts ballot to create a program to ensure humane treatment of farm animals did not pass in its original form. The League is now part of an ad hoc committee examining the issue of how farm animals are treated in Massachusetts with the goal of developing a new, more representative proposal that hopefully would draw broader support.

During 1988, nearly ninety animal control officers from throughout the state graduated from an animal control training program directed by Thomas White, director of operations at the League, under the auspices of the Animal Control Officers Association of Massachusetts, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Training Council. As a result of the success of this program, the League has proposed a bill that would make such training and certification mandatory for animal control officers in the Commonwealth. During 1988, the League also proposed and secured passage of a law that gives League agents the right to obtain a search warrant for premises where there is probable cause to suspect fighting birds or dogs.

Teaching children at an early age to love and respect animals is a priority that the League continues to address through pet care demonstrations, shelter tours for school groups, and the operation of the Animal Friends Summer School program held each year on Cape Cod. People of all ages are provided with information on pet care and animal-related issues through League pamphlets, public service announcements in the media, and the publication of *Our Fourfooted Friends.*

In anticipation of a growing need in the 1990's for additional animal rescue, shelter and protective services, the League continues its search for a suitable site in the South Shore area for the creation of a new adoption shelter that would serve the needs of the population in this region.

Neutering surgery is performed painlessly under general anesthesia. The League is grateful to Carney Hospital for donating this North American Droger anesthesia machine.

A Veterinary Update:

Preventing Pet Parenthood

By Edward A. Leonard, D.V.M.

Just as trees, flowers and lawns burst into life this time of year, it's also "growing season" for domestic pets. Female cats have a seasonal cycle, with fertility suspended in the late fall and early winter, and resuming in the spring. With dogs, even though their cycle is continual, the effect on the pet population is similar because most dogs are not running loose in the cold months.

The only way to reduce the numbers of unwanted litters is for responsible pet owners to make the decision to surgically neuter their pets. This simple procedure offers many additional benefits as well, including both added convenience for the owner, and health advantages for the animal. There is no longer any need to confine animals during heat periods; nor is there a risk of carpets or furniture being sprayed by tomcats marking out their territory.

For dogs and cats, surgical neutering eliminates a female's chance of developing uterine infections, and reduces the risk of mammary cancer. Males usually become less aggressive and spend more time at home, thus reducing their chances of being injured in fights or accidents.

Here are a few of the questions owners most commonly ask about the neutering procedure:

Q. How is the procedure done?

A. For a female cat or dog, the ovaries, fallopian tubes and uterus are surgically removed in an operation called an ovariohysterectomy, more commonly known as spaying. In the neutering of a male animal, the testicles are removed in a procedure known as an orchiectomy.

Q. When should my pet have the operation?

A. Generally speaking, as early as possible. Most veterinarians recommend that a female be spayed before her first estrus or heat period, generally between 5½ months to 9 months. A male dog or cat can be neutered at 6 to 8 months.

Q. Will the operation change my pet's disposition or personality?

A. Only for the better. The operation has no effect on intelligence, and usually makes the animal gentler, more affectionate and more oriented toward people rather than other animals. While neutered pets do tend to put on weight more easily if allowed to overeat, this tendency can easily be controlled by proper diet and exercise.

Q. Is the procedure painful and how long does it take?

A. The operations are performed painlessly, under general anesthesia. While there may be some discomfort during the healing process, this can be alleviated with medication. Generally, the younger the animal, the shorter the recuperative period. For a young animal that has not gone into first heat, the procedure can usually be done on an outpatient basis, with the surgery performed in the morning and the animal back home in the afternoon.

Q. How much does it cost?

A. The cost of the operation varies from one community to another, and will also be affected by the age and size of your pet. The fee is a one-time investment that will save you many expenses in the future, such as the cost of nursing a mother through delivery, raising unwanted litters of puppies or kittens, or boarding your pet during heat periods.

For all animals adopted from the League, the cost of spaying and neutering is included in the adoption fee. Those who adopt animals too young to be neutered will receive a reminder notice to bring the animal back to the League clinic for spaying or neutering when it reaches the appropriate age.

Officer Frank Pomodoro tearfully comforts Fritz after his rescue.

Dr. John DeJong and Martha Parkhurst of the League help Fritz get on his feet after being hoisted from the hole.

Photos by
Nancy Lane and Curtis Ackerman, courtesy Boston Herald.

A Team Assist for One of Boston's Finest

Dear Animal Rescue League:

When Fritz fell into a hole in the South End and needed help getting out, many people responded to the scene. Some came to help, others to watch, all had one thing in common: a strong desire to see him get safely away from this trauma. Some of the people who responded to help were from your office. It was no small part that you played in helping my partner live . . . in fact, you were instrumental in his extrication. When I realize how close I came to losing my friend, I want to thank Thomas White, Ed Powers, Dr. Leonard, Dr. Dejong, and Martha Parkhurst (who spent a long time in the same dangerous position I was in!). If I left anyone out, please forgive me.

The author of this heartfelt thank-you letter is Officer Frank Pomodoro of the Boston Police Mounted Unit and his friend and partner, "Fritz," is a 19-year-old horse who became the center of a dramatic and highly publicized rescue effort when he fell into a hole in a South End street last November. The League staff members cited were among a host of police officers, firefighters and other concerned individuals who converged on the scene to help rescue Fritz from his life-threatening predicament.

The drama began when Fritz accidentally stepped into a hole in a metal plate covering a sink hole on top of an abandoned underground garage. As Fritz struggled to free his right hind leg from the plate, the plate gave way under his weight and "he just started sliding down into the hole," according to horrified witnesses.

To keep the animal calm during the frantic two-hour rescue effort, Dr. Edward Leonard, director of veterinary medicine at the League, administered a sedative injection, while rescuers employed a variety of methods to extricate the animal, including ropes, harnesses, and Ivory soap liquid and motor oil to free him from the plate. They were finally able to hoist Fritz to freedom with the aid of a 35-ton cherry picker owned by Shaughnessy Crane Services of South Boston, which donated its assistance.

Fritz emerged from his ordeal with bruises and cuts, but no serious injuries, and was able to return to duty after a brief recuperation period. Officer Pomodoro, who was at his partner's side throughout the ordeal, said: "It looked kind of rough for a while, but this guy's a fighter. He hung in there like a cop!"

NEWSFRONT

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

CALLING ALL PETS AND PEOPLE TO THE LEAGUE'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

A PET SHOW ON THE COMMON FOR "UNCOMMON" PETS

Members and friends of the League are invited to show off their favorite pets at a pet show to be held on Boston Common, Saturday, May 13, in honor of the League's 90th anniversary and the national observance of Be Kind to Animals Week, May 7-13. Pets must be accompanied by a child between the ages of 6 to 14, and all animals must be in carrying cages, or on leashes. Prizes will be awarded in a variety of categories, including most obedient, best tailwagger, best pet with two feet or less, etc. Judging will be based on pet care, personality and appeal, rather than pedigree. The show will begin at 10 a.m. on the Common parade grounds at the corner of Beacon and Charles Streets.

Anyone wishing to enter a pet in the show must register in advance, by May 8th. To obtain registration forms, call the Animal Rescue League at 426-9170.

SHELTERS TO HOST ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSES

Open house celebrations, including shelter tours, refreshments and animal demonstrations, will be held at League shelters on the following dates:

Brewster:	Saturday, April 22
Rte. 6A E. Brewster	10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Salem:	Sunday, May 21
378 Highland Ave.	10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Dedham:	Sunday, June 4
238 Pine St.	1 p.m.–4:30 p.m.
Boston:	Sunday, Sept. 10
10 Chandler St.	(hrs. to be announced)

SHELTER ANIMALS GET HEARTS AND HOMES FOR VALENTINE

League staff member Karen Rikkers dispenses some much needed affection to three of the forty dogs rescued from an upstate New York "animal farm" and brought to the League for adoption placement in December. The dogs were among nearly 1,000 animals discovered last year in brutal conditions at Animals Farm Home in Ellenville, N.Y. Most of the animals discovered were suffering from disease and near starvation. After those that survived were nursed back to health by the New York Humane Society, the League joined several other New England humane societies in a cooperative effort to find new homes for the dogs, a program coordinated by the Connecticut office of the Humane Society of the United States. All of the dogs taken in by the League have now been adopted.

VIDEO CAMERA DONATION AIDS LAW ENFORCEMENT, EDUCATION

Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Eliot Parkhurst of Northborough, the League has a new video camera and equipment for use in law enforcement and education activities. Expressing the League's appreciation for their generous gift, League president Arthur G. Slade noted: "Video taping the condition of animals we find so often in cruelty cases will provide an excellent way to give the courts a very graphic and accurate idea of the true conditions. I'm sure this can make the difference between success and failure in obtaining a conviction."

LEAGUE RESCUES PEREGRINE FALCON

Thomas French, assistant director of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Carolyn Haselton, staff assistant at Tufts Veterinary Clinic, and Ellie Hervey of the state Fisheries and Wildlife Division, prepare to release two young Peregrine falcons to resume their southward migration, after recuperating from near fatal mishaps. One of the birds, named "Weeny" by the Canadian biologists who had reared and released it as a receptive falcon restoration program in New Brunswick, was found ill and near starvation on Commonwealth Pier in Boston in mid-October. League agents rescued the bird, which was unable to fly and suffered from a trichomoniasis infection. The bird was treated and released once at Tufts Wildlife Clinic along with a second peregrine falcon of unknown origin, which was found in the water off Chatham, too weak to feed itself or continue its migration. Released after being nursed back to health, both birds took live flips in their new wings and then headed southward.

OPEN HOUSE AT RED ACRE

The Red Acre Farm Hearing Dog Center will host an open house Sunday, June 4, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at 109 Red Acre Road, Stow, MA. (tel. 508-897-5370/voice; 508-897-8343/tty). All are invited.

TWO-DAY RESCUE EFFORT SAVES INJURED GOOSE

After two days of trying, League staff members Martha Parkhurst, Ray Orlando and Carol McCarthy succeed in capturing an injured goose and prepare to transport it to the League ambulance. Employees at the Edgewater Industrial Park in Wakefield first spotted the goose, which had its foot caught in a leg-hold trap. Unable to catch the goose which, despite the trap, was able to swim and fly a little, the concerned employees called on the League for help, but the goose continued to evade all rescuers throughout

day one of the effort. League staff members returned the next day, however, and, with the aid of a rescue boat and a net, were finally able to capture the injured bird. They transported it to New England Wildlife Center in Hingham, where the trap was removed and the bird was treated and eventually released back into the wild.

EVERGREEN MEMORIES

President Arthur G. Made expresses the League's grateful appreciation to Bernadine F. Scott of Dedham who donated funds for decorative shrubbery to beautify the League's Pine Ridge Animal Center in Dedham, in memory of her late pet "Snowflake." The plaque in the background reads "Shrubbery Plantings dedicated to the loving memory of the beloved dog Snowflake, precious friend forever of Bernadine F. Scott."

A Raccoon Neighbor

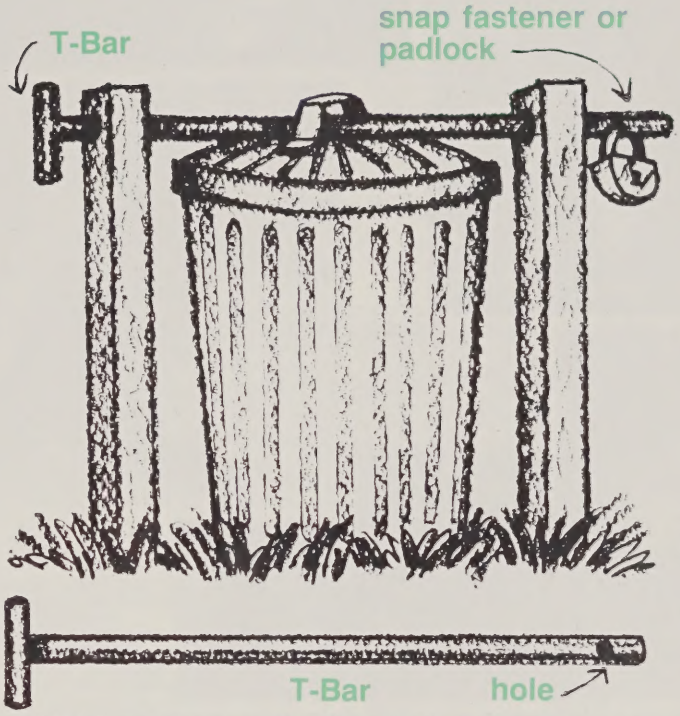
The King family was coming home after a day-long barbecue at the local park. Nine-year-old, Trevor King was sitting in the back seat of the family's station wagon watching the street lights flash by in the darkness. After a time, the car approached their house and, as Trevor's father began to turn into their driveway, the car headlights reflected a pair of bright eyes. Trevor, his father and mother, and his little sister Mindy all leaned forward to see the animal staring back through the bright lights. They could see that it was a raccoon and that it had broken into the trash bags, left at the end of the driveway for garbage pick-up the next day. The raccoon stared at the car for a moment longer and then scampered off into the darkness. "So, that is what has been eating the garbage," said Mr. King. "It is not the neighborhood dogs as I had thought." Something had been raiding the King's garbage for weeks and Mr. King had decided it was neighborhood dogs running free at night, and tearing into garbage left for pick-up. Trevor was excited that a wild animal was living so close to their house. He had never seen a real raccoon before, only the photographs in his nature *encyclopedia.* "I don't like raccoons!" exclaimed Mindy. "Why?" asked Mrs. King. "I just don't," explained Mindy. "They scare me." "You should never approach a raccoon or any other wild animal," advised Mr. King, "but there is no reason to fear raccoons. They are more afraid of you than you are of them."

As soon as the car came to a stop in the driveway, Trevor jumped out and ran to his room and grabbed the nature encyclopedia off the bookshelf. He turned to the section about raccoons and began to read about them. Trevor learned that raccoons grow to about the size of a large cat and are recognized by their black-masked face and ringed tail. He read that raccoons are *nocturnal* which is why Trevor hadn't seen the ones that lived around his neighborhood. Raccoons prefer to live in safe, dry, sheltered locations such as hollow tree trunks; however, because so many trees are cut

down to make room for people's homes, raccoons do not have as many places to live as they used to. Trevor felt sorry for the raccoon losing its *natural habitat.* The encyclopedia listed the types of food that raccoons, which are *omnivores,* like to eat. They are: *polliwogs,* minnows, frogs, grasshoppers, bird eggs, earthworms, and wild fruit. Trevor read on to discover that, as raccoons lost wild spaces to live, they had to live closer and closer to humans and that is when they learned how easy it is to eat garbage. There was a picture of a raccoon paw in the encyclopedia and it looked like a human hand, complete with fingers. The photo caption said that raccoons have very *nimble* paws and they are able to open jars, untie knots, and grab things. Baby raccoons are called kits and, no matter what their age, raccoons are known for their very curious nature. Mr. King was right, too; the encyclopedia said that raccoons *are* generally afraid of people and like to keep their distance.

Trevor showed his parents what he read in the nature encyclopedia and the whole family discussed raccoons and their natural behavior. Mindy decided that raccoons were not very scary after all, and Mr. King realized he needed to be a good neighbor to wildlife and keep the garbage out of their reach. He built a "raccoon padlock" and bought a garbage can to use with it (see diagram). By using the new garbage can and padlock, Mr. King could stop leaving loose garbage bags out to tempt curious raccoons. Raccoons should eat their wild foods, not people food. Trevor did not see the raccoon again, after the new garbage can and padlock were used, but he knew that it was nearby. Trevor liked the idea that he shared his neighborhood with a wild animal, especially a raccoon.

Can You Build a Raccoon Padlock? (ask your parent(s) for help)



NOTE: Using this type of garbage holder is not as easy as throwing the trash out in a bag, but it will be more neat!

VOCABULARY LIST

Encyclopedia – A written work that has information about all branches of knowledge or one specific branch of knowledge.

Nocturnal – Active at night and *not* active during the day.

Natural habitat – The environment where a certain living creature is normally found.

Omnivores – Eats *both* plant and animal material.

Polliwogs – Growth stage of a frog after hatching from egg.

Nimble – Able to move quickly, lightly, cleverly.

Kit – What a baby raccoon is called.

PETS IN THE PICTURE

1 "She's a great cat and she still loves to eat," writes Michael S. Scola of Gloucester, who adopted "Ingrid" at the League two years ago. Here Ingrid strikes a contemplative pose, planning ahead to her next meal, perhaps!

2 Arlene Sanders of Natick sends a donation in memory of her cat "Frisky" who died on Thanksgiving Day, at the age of 18. Mrs. Sanders, whose other cat "Candy" also died on Thanksgiving Day the previous year, writes to say: "We are thankful we had them for so long—They brought a lot of joy and happiness to our family."

3 Mrs. Katherine Barbato of Canton shares this photo of her cat "Puffy" who died last summer, and sends a donation to the League in memory of her beloved pet. Mrs. Barbato writes that she has since given a home to another orphan, "a beautiful, all black cat with green eyes."

4 "I thought you might like to see that one of your own has made it!" writes Caroll F. McNair of Lynn, whose cat "Turbo," adopted from the League, was recognized as a "Frisky Cat" in the 1988 search for "the Friskiest Cat in America." "She is in constant motion, which is what led me to enter her in the contest." In her contest application, Ms. McNair wrote: "Turbo is her name, and flying is her game! . . . Terrible, tiny Turbo takes no time to tarry till totally, totally tired!"

It's a Dog's Life—Heidi's Story

By: Eileen R. Cohen

Our home in Sharon, Massachusetts was, until early 1970, a one-dog household. It was on the occasion of my sweet sixteenth birthday that we decided to visit the Animal Rescue League in Boston to search for a second dog. We agreed to look for a small-breed puppy.

Well, that day at the ARL, there were certainly lots of puppies—BIG DOG puppies—German shepherds, labradors, and retrievers. Just when we were ready to give up in disappointment, she made herself known. It was a series of soft kisses through the cage door that convinced us. I had my sweet sixteen birthday present—Heidi would be her name.

Heidi's ARL records listed her as a nine-month-old "Collie X" but we were convinced that "Heinz 57 Varieties" was more suitable.

Well, she proved to be the most lovable dog anyone could ask for. Over the years Heidi became an integral part of our family. As shown in the enclosed photographs, she became "queen of the house" and was an active participant in every family adventure.

Whether we were watching TV, planting a garden, or sharing an ice cream dessert—Heidi was there. When we walked on the beach in Maine, when we traveled by train to Florida, when we basked in the sunshine by a palm—Heidi was there. When we traveled cross-country in our motor home, when we hiked through Yellowstone National Park, when we admired the view of the Blue Ridge Mountains—Heidi was there.

Well, now it's 1989, and Heidi is not here. She lived to be 19½ years old! Our sweet little dog may be gone from our home but never from our hearts.

With love from The Cohen Family
Berwyn, Pa.

Heidi as a puppy in 1970 (left) prepares for her first piano concert, and (right) takes in the view of the Blue Ridge Mountains in 1984.

ANIMAL FRIENDS SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Animal Friends Summer School located in Cataumet on Cape Cod will once again offer two full sessions of day programs for children this summer, including pet care programs, farm animals, arts and crafts, and a variety of other animal-related activities.

For more information or to register, call or write: Animal Friends Summer School, Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, Mass. 02117 (617) 426-9170.

SESSION I:
June 26, 1989 to July 14, 1989
(three-week session)
Registration Fee: $175

SESSION II:
July 17, 1989 to August 11, 1989
(four-week session)
Registration Fee: $235

Annual Pet Show
Saturday, July 22, 1989
(Rain date: July 23)

Animal Rescue League of Boston
A non-profit humane society helping animals since 1899.

U.S. Postal Service

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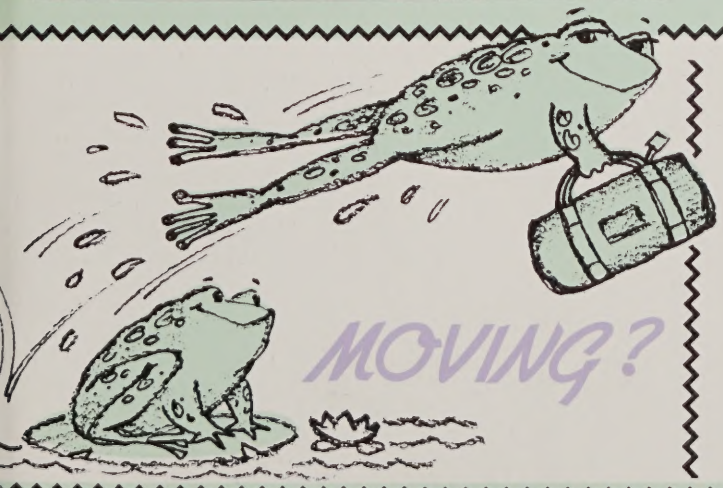

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(please print or attach mailing label)

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Please allow two months for us to correct our mailing list.

The President and Board of Directors
Cordially invite you to attend our

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 26, 1989
2:30 p.m.
League Headquarters
Corner of Arlington & Tremont Streets
Boston, Massachusetts

Program:

Annual Meeting
Election of Directors
Special Guest Speaker:
John C. Walsh, Regional Director
World Society for the Protection of Animals

Animal Rescue League of Boston

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